

PATENT

Serial No. 09/286,027

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 14, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the present amendment are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been amended as shown in the enclosed Replacement Abstract to better conform to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to place it in better form.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. In response, claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice, and independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include the recitations of claims 14 and 15.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16 are in allowable form and requests allowance thereof. In addition, as claims 2-13, and 17-20 depend from independent claims 1 and 16, applicants respectfully request that claims 2-13, and 17-20 also be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of

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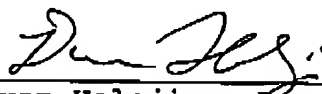
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Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney
(914) 333-9607
June 17, 2004

Enclosure: Replacement Abstract